

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel
and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together
with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth
had passed away, and the sea was no more.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning,
wailing or pain, suffering or illness,
for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new."

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning,
wailing or pain, suffering or illness,
for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new."

I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.

The victors will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be their God, and they will be my own.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you,
praying always with joy in my every prayer for you.

I am confident of this,
that the one who began a good work in you
will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right that I should think this way about you,
because I hold you in my heart,
you who are partners with me in grace.

For God is my witness,
how I long for you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer:
that your love may increase ever more and more
So that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
filled with the fruit of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ
for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you,
praying always with joy in my every prayer for you,
because of your partnership for the gospel
from the first day until now.

I am confident of this,
that the one who began a good work in you
will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right that I should think this way about you,
because I hold you in my heart,
you who are partners with me in grace.

For God is my witness,
how I long for you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer:
that your love may increase
ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception,
to discern what is of value,
So that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
filled with the fruit of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ
for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
will he not also give us everything else along with him?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature
will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead,
dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has blessed us in Christ

with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,

as he chose us in him,

before the foundation of the world,

to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ,

in accord with the favor of his will.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters:

Knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance
on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow
for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction
is producing for us an eternal weight of glory
beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen
but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory,
but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed, we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. John

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love others.

The way we came to know love
was that Jesus laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for others.

Children, let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord.

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;

for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord,

every knee shall bend before me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then each of us shall give an account of oneself to God.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye,
at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

Then the word that is written shall come about:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed, we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

So we are always courageous,
although we know
that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body
and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before
the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body,
whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Timothy

The time of my departure is at hand.

I have competed well;

I have finished the race;

I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
which the Lord, the just judge,
will award to me on that day, and not only to me,
but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the First Letter of St. John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us

that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us

is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;

what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that,

when it is revealed we shall be like him,

for we shall see him as he is.

Everyone who has this hope based on him

makes himself pure, as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say,
“Write this: Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord from now on.”

“Yes,” said the Spirit,
“let them find rest from their labors,
for their good works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord